

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01

SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

OES-06 INT-05 USIE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 DLOS-06 SAL-01 L-03

SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /093 W
----- 122708

O R 161758Z NOV 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2339

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2737

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, EFIS

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL NOVEMBER 15-16: FISHERIES
DISCUSSION

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 11227, (B) EC BRUSSELS 11029

1. SUMMARY: DURING THEIR NOVEMBER 16 COUNCIL SESSION, THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS RECEIVED A REPORT FROM ACTION EC COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS GUNDELACH ON THE CURRENT STATE OF FISHINGNEGOTIATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES. COREPER HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INTENSIFY WORK ON A COMMON EC POSITION FOR THE LONDON NORTHEAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION (NEAFC) MEETING. IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD AGAIN RAISED THE INTERNAL FISHING REGIME ISSUE. EN SUMMARY.

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2. GUNDELACH'S REPORT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS COVERED THE FULL RANGE OF CURRENT AND PROJECTED FISHING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE EC AND THIRD COUNTRIES. THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE REPORT, AS OUTLINED TO THE PRESS BY GUNDELACH HIMSELF, ARE DISCUSSED BELOW.

A. CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS. GUNDELACH DELIVERED A POSITIVE APPRAISAL OF THE CURRENT TALKS WITH THE U.S. AND NORWAY. HE STRESSED IN PARTICULAR THAT THERE HAS BEEN GOOD PROGRESS IN THE U.S. TALKS WHICH, HE SAID, ARE AIMED AT THE NEGOTIATION OF NON-RECIPROCAL EC RIGHTS IN U.S. WATERS. GUNDELACH CHARACTERIZED THE TALKS WITH ICELAND AS BEING AT A DELICATE STAGE BUT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT COMMON INTERESTS BETWEEN THE EC AND GOI IN CONSERVATION OF STOCKS WOULD HELP PAVE THE WAY FOR AGREEMENT. IF IT PROVES TO BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WITH ICELAND BEFORE DECEMBER 1, THE EC WOULD HAVE TO SEEK AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT.

B. PROJECTED NEGOTIATIONS. GUNDELACH EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CANADA HAS YET TO RESPOND TO THE EC'S OFFER OF NEGOTIATION. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE EC HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY RESPONSE FROM THE EAST EUROPEANS. HE STRESSED THAT ONCE THE EC 200 MILE FISHING LIMITS GO INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, THE EC WOULD ALLOW FISHING ONLY BY THOSE COUNTRIES WITH WHOM FISHING AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED OR WERE IN PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION; THOSE WHO HAD MERELY INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM COMMUNITY WATERS. (COMMENT: THIS FORMULATION IS CONSISTENT WITH THE ORIGINAL NEGOTIATING DIRECTIVES

PROPOSED TO THE EC COUNCIL BY THE COMMISSION BUT NOT WITH THE MORE STRINGENT RESOLUTION APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2 (REFTEL B) WHICH STIPULATES THAT THIRD-COUNTRY FISHING IN THE NEW EC WATERS WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE IF APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN CONCLUDED. THESE, OF COURSE, CAN BE INTERIM AGREEMENTS. END COMMENT.)

GUNDELACH SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH THE EC HAD RECEIVED NO DIRECT SIGNALS FROM THE SOVIETS, MOSCOW HAS RECENTLY ACCORDED "DE FACTO RECOGNITION" TO NORWEGIAN AND ICELANDIC 200 MILE LIMITS AND THAT HE EXPECTED NO QUARREL FROM THE EAST EUROPEANS ABOUT THE LEGALITY OF A SIMILAR MOVE BY THE EC STATES.

3. NEAFC MEETING--UK MINISTER OF STATE DAVID OWEN TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE MINISTERS HAD BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE UPCOMING LONDON NEAFC MEETING AND HAD INSTRUCTED COREPER TO PUSH HARD ON DEVELOPING A COMMON EC POSITION FOR THE MEETING.

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4. INTERNAL REGIME. PREDICTABLY, IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD BROUGHT UP GOI CONCERNS OVER THE INTERNAL REGIME. HE TOLD THE PRESS HE HAD INFORMED HIS COLLEAGUES THAT IF THERE IS NO COMMUNITY AGREEMENT ON AN INTERNAL REGIME BY JANUARY 1, THE GOI WOULD HAVE TO TAKE INTERIM STEPS, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSION AND INTERESTED STATES, TO ENSURE EXPANSION OF THE IRISH CATCH "AS AGREED BY" THE MINISTERS AT THE HAGUE OCTOBER 30. OWEN TOLD THE PRESS THAT

UK HAD NOT RAISED THE COASTAL ZONE ISSUE DURING THE MEETING; BUT
HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HMG WOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO TAKE, IF
NECESSARY, NON-DISCRIMINATORY CONSERVATION MEASURES (WHICH WOULD
APPLY TO UK FISHERMEN AS WELL) TO PROTECT FISHING STOCKS IN THE
ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT ON AN INTERNAL REGIME. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHERIES, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU11226
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760427-0545
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761145/aaaabmsi.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 EC BRUSSELS 11227, 76 EC BRUSSELS 11029
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL NOVEMBER 15-16: FISHERIES DISCUSSION
TAGS: EFIS, US, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006